

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 415

AN ACT

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF TAUNTON RIVER, MASSACHU-**
2 **SETTS.**

3 Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16
4 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(____) TAUNTON RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS.—The
7 main stem of the Taunton River from its headwaters at
8 the confluence of the Town and Matfield Rivers in the
9 Town of Bridgewater downstream 40 miles to the con-
10 fluence with the Quequechan River at the Route 195
11 Bridge in the City of Fall River, to be administered by
12 the Secretary of the Interior in cooperation with the Taun-
13 ton River Stewardship Council as follows:

14 “(A) The 18-mile segment from the confluence
15 of the Town and Matfield Rivers to Route 24 in the
16 Town of Raynham, as a scenic river.

17 “(B) The 5-mile segment from Route 24 to 0.5
18 miles below Weir Bridge in the City of Taunton, as
19 a recreational river.

20 “(C) The 8-mile segment from 0.5 miles below
21 Weir Bridge to Muddy Cove in the Town of
22 Dighton, as a scenic river.

23 “(D) The 9-mile segment from Muddy Cove to
24 the confluence with the Quequechan River at the
25 Route 195 Bridge in the City of Fall River, as a rec-
26 reational river.”.

1 **SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT OF TAUNTON RIVER, MASSACHU-**
2 **SETTS.**

3 (a) TAUNTON RIVER STEWARDSHIP PLAN.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each river segment added to
5 section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by
6 section 1 of this Act shall be managed in accordance
7 with the Taunton River Stewardship Plan, dated
8 July 2005 (including any amendment to the Taun-
9 ton River Stewardship Plan that the Secretary of
10 the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
11 retary”) determines to be consistent with this Act).

12 (2) EFFECT.—The Taunton River Stewardship
13 Plan described in paragraph (1) shall be considered
14 to satisfy each requirement relating to the com-
15 prehensive management plan required under section
16 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C.
17 1274(d)).

18 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To provide for the
19 long-term protection, preservation, and enhancement of
20 each river segment added to section 3(a) of the Wild and
21 Scenic Rivers Act by section 1 of this Act, pursuant to
22 sections 10(e) and 11(b)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers
23 Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e) and 1282(b)(1)), the Secretary
24 may enter into cooperative agreements (which may include
25 provisions for financial and other assistance) with—

1 (1) the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (in-
2 cluding political subdivisions of the Commonwealth
3 of Massachusetts);

4 (2) the Taunton River Stewardship Council;
5 and

6 (3) any appropriate nonprofit organization, as
7 determined by the Secretary.

8 (c) RELATION TO NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—Not-
9 withstanding section 10(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers
10 Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(c)), each river segment added to sec-
11 tion 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by section
12 1 of this Act shall not be—

13 (1) administered as a unit of the National Park
14 System; or

15 (2) subject to the laws (including regulations)
16 that govern the administration of the National Park
17 System.

18 (d) LAND MANAGEMENT.—

19 (1) ZONING ORDINANCES.—The zoning ordi-
20 nances adopted by the Towns of Bridgewater, Hali-
21 fax, Middleborough, Raynham, Berkley, Dighton,
22 Freetown, and Somerset, and the Cities of Taunton
23 and Fall River, Massachusetts (including any provi-
24 sion of the zoning ordinances relating to the con-
25 servation of floodplains, wetlands, and watercourses

1 associated with any river segment added to section
2 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by section
3 1 of this Act), shall be considered to satisfy each
4 standard and requirement described in section 6(c)
5 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C.
6 1277(c)).

7 (2) VILLAGES.—For the purpose of section 6(c)
8 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C.
9 1277(c)), each town described in paragraph (1) shall
10 be considered to be a village.

11 (3) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

12 (A) LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY OF SEC-
13 RETARY.—With respect to each river segment
14 added to section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic
15 Rivers Act by section 1 of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary may only acquire parcels of land—

17 (i) by donation; or

18 (ii) with the consent of the owner of
19 the parcel of land.

20 (B) PROHIBITION RELATING TO ACQUISI-
21 TION OF LAND BY CONDEMNATION.—In accord-
22 ance with section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic
23 Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)), with respect to
24 each river segment added to section 3(a) of the
25 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by section 1 of this

1 Act, the Secretary may not acquire any parcel
2 of land by condemnation.

3 **SEC. 3. ENERGY AND CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.**

4 The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the
5 Secretary of Energy and private industry, shall complete
6 and submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the
7 House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and
8 Natural Resources of the Senate, and Senators and Rep-
9 resentatives from the States affected by the designation,
10 a report using the best available data and regarding the
11 energy resources available on the lands and waters in-
12 cluded in the segments of the Taunton River designated
13 under section 2 of this Act. The report shall—

14 (1) contain the best available description of the
15 energy resources available on the land and report on
16 the specific amount of energy withdrawn from pos-
17 sible development; and

18 (2) identify cubic feet of natural gas, natural
19 gas transmission and storage potential, megawatts
20 of geothermal, wind and solar energy that could be
21 commercially produced, annual available biomass for
22 energy production, and any megawatts of hydro-
23 power resources available, including tidal, traditional
24 dams, and in-stream flow turbines.

1 **SEC. 4. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND REC-**
2 **REATIONAL SHOOTING.**

3 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting
4 the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Com-
5 monwealth of Massachusetts to manage, control, or regu-
6 late fish and resident wildlife under State law or regula-
7 tions, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, trap-
8 ping, and recreational shooting. Nothing in this Act shall
9 be construed as limiting access for hunting, fishing, trap-
10 ping, or recreational shooting.

11 **SEC. 5. DOMESTICALLY-PRODUCED ENERGY RESOURCES.**

12 Nothing in this Act shall impact the supply of domes-
13 tically-produced energy resources.

Passed the House of Representatives July 16, 2008.

Attest:

Clerk.

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